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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Sen. Hooks reappointed to OneGeorgia Authority Overview Committee**

**ATLANTA** – State Sen. George Hooks (D-Americus) has been named to the OneGeorgia Authority Overview Committee by Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, which was created by the Governor and the Legislature to assist the state's most economically challenged areas. In 2000, Sen. Hooks was first appointed to the Committee by former Gov. Roy Barnes, then again in 2005 by Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor, making Sen. Hooks the longest serving member on the Committee.

"I am truly honored to be reappointed once again to this influential Committee," Sen. Hooks said. "I look forward to serving not only my constituents, but also the people of Georgia, through the efforts of the OneGeorgia Authority."

The OneGeorgia Authority was formed in 2000 by the General Assembly to help bridge the economic divide in Georgia. The Authority uses one-third of the state's tobacco settlement money for economic development projects throughout Georgia. All of the counties in Sen. Hooks' district will qualify as either a tier one or tier two ranking, which is based on unemployment rates, poverty rates and per capita income. Traditional economic development projects that would qualify for OneGeorgia funds include water and sewer projects; road, rail and airport improvements; industrial parks; workforce development projects; technology development projects; and tourism development projects.

Earlier this month, the OneGeorgia Authority awarded more than \$17 million in grant and loan awards to Georgia communities that will create jobs and implement new economic development initiatives. Since the authority's establishment, more than \$250 million has been invested in projects and programs focused on preparing Georgia's rural areas to successfully compete in the global economy.

The Committee is composed of four members from the General Assembly, two from the House of Representatives and two from the Senate. 2007 Committee appointments include: Sen. Greg Goggans (R-Douglas), Rep. Ed Rynders (R-Albany), who serves as chairman, and Rep. Butch Parrish (R-Swainsboro). Sen. Hooks will serve on the committee until the end of his current Senate term in January of 2009.

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*Sen. George Hooks represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Dooly, Macon, Marion, Peach, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Upson, Webster and parts of Crawford counties. He can be reached in his office in Atlanta at 404.656.0065.*